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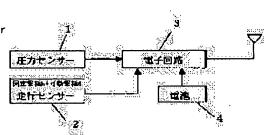
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#### (54) TIRE AIR PRESSURE SENSOR

#### (57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a tire air pressure sensor equipped with a travel sensor with such high reliability that it prevents imperfect contact, as compared with conventional switch contact types, by detecting the travel of a vehicle not by a conventional mechanical contact opening/closing method, but by a highly reliable method of detecting it from changes in electrostatic capacity.

SOLUTION: The tire air pressure sensor comprises a pressure sensor 1 for detecting the pneumatic pressure of a tire, a travel sensor 2 for detecting the travel of the vehicle, an electronic circuit part 3 for transmitting the detected pressure to a receiver on the vehicle body by means of electric waves, and a battery 4 or the like for actuating the electronic circuit part 3. The travel sensor 2 is formed of a fixed electrode 5 and an opposite movable electrode 6 and determines that the vehicle is traveling when the electronic circuit part 3 detects a change in electrostatic capacity between the fixed electrode 5 and the movable electrode 6 caused by the displacement of the movable electrode 6 due to either a centrifugal force or acceleration produced by the rotation of the tire.



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#### **CLAIMS**

#### [Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] The pressure sensor 1 which detects the pneumatic pressure of a tire, and the transit sensor 2 which detects transit of a car, In the tire pneumatic sensor which consists of cell 4 grade for operating the electronic-circuitry section 3 of transmitting the detection pressure force to the receiver by the side of a car body through radio, and the electronic-circuitry section 3 concerned The transit sensor 2 concerned is formed with the movable electrode 6 which comes to carry out phase opposite with a fixed electrode 5. The tire pneumatic sensor constituted that it should detect that the electrostatic capacity between a fixed electrode 5 and a movable electrode 6 changes in said electronic-circuitry section 3, and should judge with a run state with the variation rate produced in a movable electrode 6 with the centrifugal force or acceleration by rotation of a tire.

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#### **DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to the tire pneumatic sensor which can check the condition of the pneumatic pressure in the tire for automobiles by the vehicle room side.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] In the conventional tire pneumatic sensor, as shown in drawing 3, when the centrifugal switch 7 was formed between the cell 4 and the electronic circuitry 3 and the travel speed became for example, 20 km/h, the centrifugal switch 7 was turned on, and the power source of the electronic-circuitry section 3 was turned on, and it had become the configuration that the actuation as a tire pneumatic sensor started.

[0003] It is an example of the centrifugal switch 7 concerned, and <u>drawing 4</u> is a centrifugal force by transit, and the migration child 8 overcomes and moves to the force of a spring 9, and it is constituted that a contact 10 and a contact 11 should be made switch-on. There were problems, like in such a configuration, since the usual consumed electric current of an electronic circuitry is as small as several microA, it is necessary to make a contact 10 and a contact 11 into high-reliability extremely or, since a certain amount of magnitude is required for the migration child 8 and a spring 9, the own configuration of a tire pneumatic sensor becomes large, or cost becomes high in order to make it structure which ceases against the vibration in a tire or an impact.

[0004]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] This invention was not made in order to solve the above troubles, and it tends to offer the tire pneumatic sensor which adopted the method which is not a mechanical contact closing motion method like before, and detects a run state by change of reliable electrostatic capacity.

[0005]

[Means for Solving the Problem] The pressure sensor with which the pneumatic sensor of this invention detects the pneumatic pressure of a tire. The transit sensor which detects transit, and the electronic-circuitry section which transmits a tire pressure to the receiver by the side of a car body through radio while calculating and processing the sensor signal concerned. Consist of a cell for operating the electronic-circuitry section concerned etc., carry out phase opposite of the transit sensor concerned with a fixed electrode, and it forms with a movable electrode. It constitutes that the thing which arise in a movable electrode and which it bends and the electrostatic capacity between a fixed electrode and a movable electrode changes with variation rates should be detected in said electronic-circuitry section, and should be judged to be a run state with the centrifugal force or acceleration by rotation of a tire. [0006]

[Embodiment of the Invention] Hereafter, the example of this invention is explained based on a drawing. The pressure sensor 1 which drawing 1 is the block diagram of the tire pneumatic sensor of this invention, and detects the pneumatic pressure of a tire, While processing the electrostatic-capacity change by the transit sensor 2 which detects the transit which consists of a fixed electrode 5 and a movable electrode 6, and the transit sensor 2 concerned and judging transit initiation or a halt It responds to the result, the signal of a pressure sensor 1 is calculated and processed, and it consists of cell 4 grades for operating the electronic-circuitry section 3 which transmits to the receiver by the side of a car body through radio, and the electronic-circuitry section 3 concerned.

[0007] Drawing 2 is the structure section Fig. of said transit sensor 2, and is formed from the movable electrode 6 which bends with the centrifugal force or acceleration by rotation of a fixed electrode 5 and a tire, and produces a variation rate.

[Function of the Invention] According to the pneumatic sensor of this invention, it can be bent by the centrifugal force or acceleration by rotation of a tire in a movable electrode, and a variation rate can be produced, consequently the electrostatic capacity between movable electrodes and fixed electrodes concerned can change, and the transit start of a vehicle can be detected by detecting it in an electronic circuitry.

[8000]

[Effect of the Invention] As mentioned above, since the tire pneumatic sensor of this invention is the structure of detecting the electrostatic-capacity change between the movable electrodes and fixed electrodes which are produced with the centrifugal force or acceleration by rotation of a tire in an electronic circuitry, there is no trouble by the poor contact of a contact like a switch-contact method, and a very reliable tire pneumatic sensor with a transit sensor can be offered.

[Translation done.]

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# **DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS**

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

- [Drawing 1] The block diagram of the tire pneumatic sensor by this invention.
- [Drawing 2] The structure section Fig. of the transit sensor which constitutes the tire pneumatic sensor by this invention.
- [Drawing 3] The block Fig. of the tire pneumatic sensor at the time of using the conventional centrifugal switch.
- [Drawing 4] The structure section Fig. of the conventional centrifugal switch.

[Description of Notations]

- 1 Pressure Sensor
- 2 Transit Sensor
- 3 Electronic-Circuitry Section
- 4 Cell
- 5 Fixed Electrode
- 6 Movable Electrode
- 7 Centrifugal Switch
- 8 Migration Child
- 9 Spring
- 10 Contact
- 11 Contact

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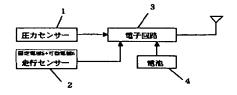
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# (54)【発明の名称】 タイヤ空気圧センサー

# (57)【要約】

本発明は、走行状態を従来のような機械式の 接点開閉方式ではなく、信頼性の高い静電容量の変化で 検出する方式を採用することにより、従来のスイッチ接 点方式に比べて接点の接触不良が起きない、極めて信頼 性の高い走行センサー付きタイヤ空気圧センサーを提供 しようとするものである。

【解決手段】 タイヤの空気圧を検出する圧力センサー 1と、車両の走行を検知する走行センサー2と、検出圧 力を電波で車体側の受信機に送信する等の電子回路部3 と、当該電子回路部3を作動させるための電池4等から なるタイヤ空気圧センサーにおいて、当該走行センサー 2を固定電極5と相対向してなる可動電極6とで形成 し、タイヤの回転による遠心力または加速度によって可 動電極6に生じる変位によって固定電極5と可動電極6 の間の静電容量が変化することを前記電子回路部3で検 出して走行状態と判定すべく構成したタイヤ空気圧セン サーである。



1

#### 【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】タイヤの空気圧を検出する圧力センサー1 と、車両の走行を検知する走行センサー2と、検出圧力 を電波で車体側の受信機に送信する等の電子回路部3 と、当該電子回路部3を作動させるための電池4等から なるタイヤ空気圧センサーにおいて、

当該走行センサー2を固定電極5と相対向してなる可動 電極6とで形成し、タイヤの回転による遠心力または加 速度によって可動電極6に生じる変位によって固定電極 子回路部3で検出して走行状態と判定すべく構成したタ イヤ空気圧センサー。

#### 【発明の詳細な説明】

## [0001]

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は、自動車用タイヤ内 の空気圧の状態を車室側で確認できるタイヤ空気圧セン サーに関するものである。

#### [0002]

【従来の技術】従来のタイヤ空気圧センサーでは、図3 に示すように、遠心力スイッチ7を電池4と電子回路3 の間に設け、走行速度が例えば20km/hになると、 遠心力スイッチ7が〇Nになり、電子回路部3の電源が 入り、タイヤ空気圧センサーとしての動作が始まる構成 になっていた。

【0003】図4は、当該遠心力スイッチ7の一例で、 走行による遠心力で、移動子8がばね9の力に打ち勝っ て移動し、接点10と接点11を導通状態にすべく構成 されている。このような構成の場合、電子回路の通常の 消費電流が数μΑと小さいため、接点10と接点11を 極めて高信頼性にする必要があるとか、移動子8とばね 30 9にある程度の大きさが必要であるために、タイヤ空気 圧センサー自身の形状が大きくなるとか、タイヤ内の振 動や衝撃に絶えるような構造にするために、コストが髙 くなるなどの問題があった。

#### [0004]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】本発明は、上記のよう な問題点を解決するためになされたもので、走行状態を 従来のような機械式の接点開閉方式ではなく、信頼性の 高い静電容量の変化で検出する方式を採用したタイヤ空 気圧センサーを提供しようとするものである。

## [0005]

【課題を解決するための手段】本発明の空気圧センサー は、タイヤの空気圧を検出する圧力センサーと、走行を 検知する走行センサーと、当該センサー信号を演算・処 理すると共にタイヤ空気圧を電波で車体側の受信機に送 信する電子回路部と、当該電子回路部を作動させるため の電池等からなり、当該走行センサーを固定電極と相対 向して可動電極とで形成し、タイヤの回転による遠心力 または加速度によって可動電極に生じるたわみ変位によ って固定電極と可動電極の間の静電容量が変化すること 50

を前記電子回路部で検出して走行状態と判断すべく構成 したものである。

#### [0006]

【発明の実施の形態】以下、本発明の実施例を図面に基 づいて説明する。図1は、本発明のタイヤ空気圧センサ ーの構成図で、タイヤの空気圧を検出する圧力センサー 1と、固定電極5と可動電極6からなる走行を検知する 走行センサー2と、当該走行センサー2による静電容量 変化を処理し、走行開始または停止を判定するととも 5と可動電極6の間の静電容量が変化することを前記電 10 に、その結果に応じて圧力センサー1の信号を演算・処 理し、電波で車体側の受信機に送信する電子回路部3 と、当該電子回路部3を作動させるための電池4等から 構成されている。

> 【0007】図2は、前記走行センサー2の構造断面図 で、固定電極5とタイヤの回転による遠心力または加速 度によりたわみ変位を生ずる可動電極6から形成されて いる。

> 【発明の作用】本発明の空気圧センサーによれば、タイ ヤの回転による遠心力または加速度で可動電極にたわみ 変位を生じ、その結果、当該可動電極と固定電極の間の 静電容量が変化し、それを電子回路で検出することによ り、車の走行スタートを検出することができる。

#### [8000]

【発明の効果】以上のように、本発明のタイヤ空気圧セ ンサーは、タイヤの回転による遠心力または加速度によ り生ずる可動電極と固定電極の間の静電容量変化を電子 回路で検出する構造であるために、スイッチ接点方式の ような接点の接触不良によるトラブルは皆無であり、極 めて信頼性の高い走行センサー付きタイヤ空気圧センサ ーを提供することができる。

#### 【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】 本発明によるタイヤ空気圧センサーのブロッ ク図。

【図2】 本発明によるタイヤ空気圧センサーを構成す る走行センサーの構造断面図。

【図3】 従来の遠心力スイッチを使った場合のタイヤ 空気圧センサーのプロック図。

【図4】 従来の遠心力スイッチの構造断面図。

#### 【符号の説明】

- 40 圧力センサー
  - 2 走行センサー
  - 3 電子回路部
  - 4 電池
  - 固定電極
  - 6 可動電極
  - 7 遠心力スイッチ
  - 8 移動子
  - 9 ばね
  - 10 接点
- 11 接点

